



THE BLUE LIGHT

September 2007

THE HONORABLE BOB RILEY
Governor

COLONEL J. CHRISTOPHER MURPHY
Director

LT. COLONEL F.A. BINGHAM
Assistant Director

MAJOR PATRICK MANNING
ABI Division

MAJOR HUGH MCCALL
Driver License Division

MAJOR ROSCOE HOWELL
Highway Patrol Division

MAJOR ROBERT GOODNER
Protective Services

MAJOR CHARLES ANDREWS
Service Division

CAPTAIN KEVIN M. CLAUNCH
Administration Division



Inside this issue...

The Colonel's Corner	2
Take Back Our Highways	4
Motorists Extend Gratitude	5
EOD Hosts Class on IEDs	6
Thank You on Katrina Anniversary	7
Mobile Post Looks Ahead to Move	8
Robinson: Familiar Face, New Place	9

The Colonel's Corner

Lt. Col. F.A. "Bubba" Bingham, Assistant Director



This is my first opportunity to write a column for *The Blue Light*, but I hope it won't be my last. *The Blue Light* is a great means of staying in touch with what's going on throughout DPS, and I'm glad to have a chance to "bend your ear" in print by sharing a few reflections with you

Since my first days with the department as a young radio operator in 1973, I have had the privilege to watch and learn from some of the best (and, unfortunately, worst) leaders in state government. Keep in mind that not all of my lessons were learned from superiors. Many subordinates also have taught me valuable lessons, and some lessons were more influential than others. For example, one of my supervisors taught me how to write. It takes a lot of practice to put into words exactly what you want another person to understand. Often my writings were returned, looking as if they had been butchered. I learned to write a draft, let it rest for a while, and then rewrite it. If it was particularly good, I was rewarded when my supervisor affixed a gold star to the document. I also have adopted

that method of recognizing particularly effective writing.

Another one of my supervisors taught me humility by humiliating subordinates in public. The lesson I took from that was simple: Praise in public, and criticize in private with some constructive words, and do it in a timely manner. Respect is earned, and you'll earn a lot more respect by showing respect. If you embarrass someone publicly, you should have the courage to apologize publicly.

Many years ago a friend of mine offered me a beer. Since then, I've decided he might not have been a true friend. All too often I've seen the tragic results on our highways brought on by the use and abuse of alcohol. Don't ever offer a child any adult beverage or "adult" anything else. The consequences could be tragic and longstanding.

I spent more than 32 years in the Army. I've had the privilege to visit countries and meet people from all around the world. I've seen the good, the bad and the ugly. While on active duty, I sent thousands of soldiers to the front lines to fight a war to preserve our freedom and way of life. I know some of them gave the ultimate sacrifice for me ... and for you. I'm forever indebted to them, and they'll never know how much I appreciate their sacrifice. Take the time to thank people while they're here. After they're gone, it's too late.

Since my appointment as assistant director, I have had the privilege of taking a major role in helping guide the direction of this department. Each division has made significant progress toward a higher potential, toward a new vision. Each employee has an opportunity to leave his or her mark on this department. How do you want to be remembered? You can simply "hold the rudder," or you can make an effort to be an agent for positive change at DPS. If at first you don't succeed, don't just quit. You don't fail by not succeeding; you fail when you give up.

The Colonel's Corner

Lt. Col. F.A. "Bubba" Bingham, Assistant Director

Over the past several months, many promotions have been made in the arresting officer and support personnel ranks. All of these promotions are well-deserved and long overdue. A wise woman in Financial Services told me that promotions are not very costly, but that they pay enormous dividends in boosting morale. I have seen a definite improvement in morale; perhaps the promotions are part of the reason. However, along with more rank come more responsibility and accountability. Those of you who have been or will be promoted must recognize that you are held to a higher standard each time you accept a promotion.

I've said all that to say this: Life's rules are simple. Surround yourself with good people and then let them work. As often as you need to, look in on them and give a little advice and encouragement to keep them on track. Never delegate your work to a subordinate who doesn't share your vision. To do so is to invite disaster and failure. Each of us should strive to leave the organization better than we found it. Don't let personal desires blind

you to what I just said. Find a way to leave it better than you found it.

One final note: On Monday, Aug. 20, I was honored to attend a ribbon-cutting ceremony for a new driver license/license commission office at Redstone Arsenal. This "one-of-a-kind" facility will issue new class D, M and V licenses and registration plates for any citizen who has access to the installation, including active duty/reserve military, retired military personnel and dependents, contractors and Army civilians. Approximately 240,000 personnel will be affected once BRAC is completed in that area. Also attending the ceremony were Capt. Harry Nail, Lt. Ricky Dale, Sgt. Darrell Campbell, Cpl. Jeremy Cantrell, Trp. Joel Baker and Examiner II Michele Holden. The opening was facilitated by the generous purchase of equipment by Madison County License Director Mark Craig, the hard work and coordination of Garrison Commander Col. John Olsheski, MG Jim Myles and a host of other Redstone, state and county employees.



Bingham, together with Tpr. Will Barnes and Tpr. Michael Harris, visits Gov. Bob Riley in the Governor's Office. Riley presented Barnes and Harris with an award recognizing their work in a recent traffic stop resulting in a significant cocaine seizure.



Alabama State Troopers Save Lives, Enhance Safety in 'Take Back Our Highways' Initiative

A daily average of 510 Alabama state troopers braved record heat logging 22,533 hours and 340,539 miles patrolling Alabama's roadways this week in a concentrated effort to save lives and increase safety. During the "Take Back Our Highways" initiative, rural traffic fatalities dropped 69 percent and troopers issued 340 percent more traffic citations than during the same period in 2006.

Col. J. Christopher Murphy, director of the Alabama Department of Public Safety, termed the safety campaign an unqualified success and vowed to continue the agency's strategic intensive patrol and enforcement efforts. "Alabama's highways are safer today because of our state troopers and their exemplary work to save lives and increase traffic safety," said Murphy.

"Take Back Our Highways" placed approximately 200 additional troopers—from all divisions and all ranks—in uniform and on patrol duty Aug. 13-17 to combat Alabama's increasing traffic fatalities. Murphy said state traffic deaths climbed more than 5 percent in 2006—to their highest level since 1973—at the same time that traffic deaths nationwide fell 2 percent.

Partnering with Public Safety in conducting the campaign is the Alabama District Attorney's Association,

whose members are committed to vigorously prosecuting "drivers who have killed or caused serious injuries to themselves and other motorists on the roadways of Alabama due to speeding and aggressive driving," said District Attorney Richard J. Minor of St. Clair County.

During the week, troopers targeted primary violations and driving behavior that cause crashes and contribute to crash severity, Murphy said. These include speeding, failure to yield the right of way, following too closely, driver inattention, and DUI. The campaign focused on crash-prone areas and included line patrols, saturation patrols, driver license checkpoints, and LIDAR details.

Murphy said troopers particularly appreciated Gov. Bob Riley's first-hand observation of a LIDAR detail on Interstate 65 during the week.

Murphy credited Riley and the Alabama Legislature's support for hiring additional troopers to supplement the state's ranks. "Thanks to Gov. Riley and the Legislature, we have a class of troopers in training now, we plan to hire a class in October, and we are implementing a long-term hiring program," said Murphy.

Motorists Extend Gratitude for 'Take Back our Highways'

The week of Aug.13-17 I had to take my daughter to UA in Tuscaloosa. I travel down from the Trenton GA exit on 59. My husband's family is there and I have driven that road so often I think my vehicle could go it alone on memory. The last trip was the best I have ever taken. You guys were a most welcome sight. Thank you all.

I don't know how many deaths or serious accidents it will take for people to open their eyes and allow law enforcement agencies to put the manpower on all of our roads but I fear it isn't going to be soon enough. You have my vote.

Thanks for at least one safe trip and I pray for more. GOD bless and keep all of you. Thanks for being there.

-Jan Holland, Georgia

Thanks for your program last week especially targeting dangerous drivers on Alabama's roads. I log many miles every year and see many errors in judgment during my daily commute -- sometimes my own. Perhaps the most pervasive problem is the lack of courtesy, tailgating and failure to signal lane changes.

After spending a long weekend in Los Angeles, I have a new appreciation for Alabama's road quality and lack of congestion. I also appreciate California's drivers. Los Angeles suffers from very inadequate infrastructure, but nearly all the drivers used turn signals, yielded right of way, accommodated mergers and moved over for mergers, they responded to turn signals, they tried to avoid tailgating, and they stayed out of the fast lane when traffic was not congested. However, during my typical work commute, I rarely see proper signal use, tailgating is rampant, drivers fail to accommodate mergers and fail to move over for stopped vehicles. The most prolific offenders are usually talking on cell phones while driving, exhibiting behavior similar to that of drunk drivers.

-David Walker, Ardmore

I just want to express what a pleasurable experience it has been for several days driving on our highways. It is just unbelievable that it has returned to many years ago. For the most part, drivers are following the posted speed limit, not tailgating, not cutting others off, not driving recklessly, etc. I actually have passed vehicles while I am driving the speed limit.

Usually, everyone is passing and blowing me off the road and I did not pass anyone. But, today I am noticing an increase back to the driving practices before "Take Back Our Highways."

I just want to thank everyone who was involved in the campaign for a job well-done. Again, "Thank You" for the opportunity and the joy to drive on safer highways. I hope and pray that it continues.

-Stanley Seay, Huntsville

Statistics for 'Take Back our Highways'

Week of Aug. 13-17, 2007

Rural crashes: 411
Injuries: 161
Fatalities: 4
Motorist assists: 580
Trooper traffic arrests: 26,126
Hazardous arrests: 17,991
(Includes)
DUI: 140
Speeding: 11,931
Following too closely: 684
Improper lane change: 241
SB/CR: 4,995
Non-hazardous arrests: 8,135
Non-traffic arrests: 620
Warnings: 1,308

Week of Aug. 14-18, 2006

Rural crashes: 453
Injuries: 197
Fatalities: 13
Motorist assists: 406
Trooper traffic arrests: 5,932
Hazardous arrests: 4,506
Non-hazardous arrests: 1,426
Warnings: 2,192

I would like to say thank you for all of your hard work and dedication the week of Aug. 13-17. I know it's been extremely hot also, but you are doing a great job making our highways safe again. I travel Hwy. 431 between Dothan and Eufaula several times each week. The cars fly down the road like they own the road. I try to maintain the 65 mph limit while others weave back and forth two feet from your rear bumper.

Today I pulled onto 431 and a silver Mercedes with a Georgia tag came up from behind going way too fast, along with couple of other cars. I was so glad to see all of them pulled over a few miles down the road.

Thanks again and keep up the great work.

-Mark Barnes, Ashford

EOD Unit Hosts Class Taught by FBI Bomb Expert



Above: Public Safety officials line up outside to witness a demonstration.



Right: Capt. Agatha Windsor presents Yeager with a certificate of appreciation from DPS for his involvement in teaching the class.

Cpl. Russell Foshee and Agent Darren Davis of the Hazardous Devices Unit, in conjunction with FBI Agent Dan Gaston and Southwest Alabama Police Academy Training Coordinator Debbie Bulman, co-hosted a training class titled “Current Trends in Improvised Explosives” Aug. 29 in Bay Minette. This training is important for law enforcement due to the increasing occurrences of law enforcement officers encountering explosives during otherwise routine duties. Many of today’s explosives that are prepared in clandestine labs can be easily mistaken for common street drugs. The focus of the training was to help educate law enforcement and other public safety officials on current explosive device trends. The lead instructor was Dr. Kirk Yeager, head of the FBI Explosives Unit at Quantico, Va. Yeager is the foremost authority on peroxide-base explosives in the United States and has investigated high-profile explosions worldwide. Attending the training from DPS were members of Highway Patrol’s tactical teams and FAP Unit, as well as the entire ABI Hazardous Devices Unit. Other law enforcement and fire departments represented included Mobile, Mobile County, Bay Minette, Dothan, Atmore, Montgomery, Birmingham, Jefferson County, Daphne, Orange Beach, Gulf Shores, Brewton, Monroe County, Port Authority, State Fire Marshal and others. More than 140 public safety officials attended from federal agencies, including FBI, ATFE, TSA, DEA, and the U.S. Coast Guard.

Two Years Following Katrina, DPS is Definitely Not Forgotten



Dear Alabama DPS,

I live in Kiln, Miss., and with the anniversary of Hurricane Katrina coming, my wife and I were looking through some pictures we took after the storm and found pictures of an Alabama Highway Patrol helicopter that landed in the field behind our house handing out supplies. I wanted to email those pictures to you and thank you for your support after such a terrible disaster. It has been two years since Hurricane Katrina ravaged the coast and these brave men may not remember us, but I want to tell them that we remember them.

Thank you for all you did for us and God bless you in your future efforts.

*Steven Huckabee
Kiln, Miss.*

On Aug. 16, Col. J. Christopher Murphy presented a director's coin and his congratulations to Tpr. Donathon Minor for a routine traffic stop made during "Take Back our Highways," which resulted in a decidedly un-routine discovery.

The previous day, Minor stopped a car in Tuscaloosa for impeding the flow of traffic, only to discover a large sum of cash with no explanation as to the origins of the money. The cash was seized, and Minor issued a traffic violation to the subject.



MOVING DAY IS COMING!



For the Mobile Troop, moving day is fast approaching, and not a moment too soon. The much-needed facility will greatly increase productivity and boost morale for those working at the post, said Troop Commander Capt. James Lyons. Lyons looks over the plans with contractors at the new facility.

TROOPERS PREPARE FOR LABOR DAY TRAFFIC

Alabama state troopers are expecting heavy traffic statewide during the Labor Day weekend – the last major travel holiday of the warm-weather season. On the heels of the Department of Public Safety’s “Take Back Our Highways” initiative, all available troopers will be on duty, working to ensure the safety of motorists through aggressive enforcement of the state’s traffic laws.

Public Safety Director Col. J. Christopher Murphy said troopers will target those violations that often contribute to traffic crashes, such as speeding, driving while impaired, following too closely, improper passing and failure to signal. He said the increased trooper presence was made possible through the availability of overtime funding provided by the Alabama Department of Transportation and Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs.

“The recent ‘Take Back Our Highways’ campaign is testimony to the effectiveness of an intensive enforcement effort in reducing the number of crashes, deaths and injuries on Alabama’s roadways,” said Murphy. He said that last year 11 traffic deaths occurred in Alabama during the 78-hour Labor Day travel period. He added that at least five — almost half — of these deaths were

alcohol related, and seven of the motor vehicle occupants who were killed were not using safety restraints.

Enforcement plans for the Labor Day period include checkpoints and special enforcement details, including saturation and line patrols in high-traffic areas. Murphy urged motorists to do their part to ensure safe travel by buckling up on every trip, closely obeying speed limits and all other traffic laws, and practicing courtesy and patience on the roadways.

Troopers, along with local and county law enforcement and traffic safety agencies throughout Alabama, also will be targeting impaired drivers as part of the national safety enforcement blitz – “Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest.” The enforcement and public awareness effort began last week and will continue through Labor Day, Sept. 3.

“Those who commit the crime of driving while impaired by alcohol or drugs are responsible for hundreds of traffic deaths each year in Alabama. Troopers will be searching out impaired drivers, and they will be arrested,” said Murphy.

Troopers will focus patrols on heavily traveled roadways, including interstates and popular beach and vacation routes, in conjunction with Operation C.A.R.E. A cooperative effort by state police nationwide, C.A.R.E – Combined Accident Reduction Effort – seeks to promote traffic safety during holiday periods through enforcement and safety awareness.

DPS's Michael Robinson:

Familiar Face, Brand New Place

As a longtime member of the Department of Public Safety's Legal Unit, Michael W. Robinson has been an important part of much of what occurs behind the scenes within DPS. From working closely with both the Driver License and Highway Patrol divisions, to being the first lawyer assigned to building Alabama's sex offender database, Robinson has dutifully dedicated his legal expertise to departmental matters.

So earlier this year, when Col. J. Christopher Murphy approached Robinson about turning his legal expertise and insider's perspective to a new assignment, Robinson eagerly accepted, and thus began his tenure as executive counsel to the director.

Counselor, adviser and assistant rolled into one, Robinson says it's difficult to rigidly define his new responsibilities, but the parameters of the job are characterized by his confidential, professional relationship with the director. "Col. Murphy has a vision for the department, one in which I repose trust and confidence," says Robinson. "Oftentimes we discuss his ideas and future implications of his vision."

Robinson acknowledges that his long and rich history within the department has helped him build strong relationships necessary to accomplish his duties as executive counsel. "In addition to Col. Murphy, I have really strong relationships with all the division and assistant division chiefs," he says.

Robinson says he is adjusting to his executive counsel role and responsibilities, which he views as an opportunity to serve Public Safety in new and different ways. "It is my duty and responsibility to leave this department better than it was upon my arrival," he says, "and I feel that I owe the department that, because it has been so good to me."



The new job has brought changes and challenges, Robinson says. "It's difficult for me sometimes, because I am not as involved in the day-to-day of personnel matters. I'm no longer entrenched in the sex offender database. I am, however, working more with complaints than before, making sure they all get answered in a timely manner."

Recently, Robinson traveled to Washington, D.C., to discuss the new statute granting exemptions to some intra-state carriers and its effect on the Motor Carrier Unit. Also as executive counsel, Robinson worked on the leases for new posts in Opelika and Mobile, expediting the timely process of occupying the new properties.

Facing challenges on the horizon, Robinson credits his experience with the U.S. Marine Corps for building upon his work ethic and sense of professionalism. "All the discipline I have come from being in the Marines," says Robinson. "Being a Marine has definitely inspired me, in more ways than I can recount."

As much as he relishes serving in his new position, Robinson says he misses working with the Legal Unit. "I feel my greatest accomplishment thus far at DPS has been my work with the sex offender database, and frankly, I sometimes miss it. Perhaps, 'though, what is hardest for me is that I am no longer in the position to answer everyone's legal questions. I really enjoyed those days."



ABI Working to Protect Children Through ICAC Task Force

ABI Agent Spencer Traywick, ICAC, (right) examines computer hardware while conducting a search of a residence in Jackson County as part of an ICAC investigation. Two Jackson County Sheriff's Department investigators (background) help in executing the search warrant.

The August arrest of a subject for child sexual abuse, anticipated indictments in several cases, and the execution of search warrants in numerous counties throughout Alabama are just part of the recent efforts of ABI's Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, according to ICAC Coordinator Sgt. Karl Youngblood.

ICAC works to protect children and combat child exploitation and abuse by detecting and investigating sexual offenders who use the Internet to commit crimes against children, Youngblood said. The Department of Public Safety established the task force in 1999, with funding by a grant from the U.S. Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

"ICAC-trained officers with the ABI conduct online, undercover investigations and conduct forensic analysis of computers seized in ICAC investigations," said Youngblood.

"These cases range from possession of child pornography to investigations in which adults travel to engage in sexual contact with minors. ICAC investigations are characterized by their complexity and technological challenges," Youngblood said.

ABI agents also have trained officers at 40 ICAC satellite offices throughout Alabama and have equipped these agencies to conduct ICAC investigations, said Youngblood. "We are continuing to work with law enforcement agencies throughout the state to investigate and curtail the victimization of children via the Internet."

State Troopers Train at 'Dega!

Alabama state troopers recently used the Talladega Superspeedway to train a class of 18 recruits in high-speed pursuit and defensive driving techniques. "What's great about training at Talladega Superspeedway is the vast amount of usable space allows us to set up a course that simulates real obstacles and road conditions troopers are likely to find on the highway," said Sgt. Keith Jackson, of the Alabama Criminal Justice Training Center.



On Friday, Aug. 17, in a mid-morning ceremony, a class of 11 driver license examiners graduated from training at the Alabama Criminal Justice Training Center in Selma. Driver License Division Chief Maj. Hugh McCall and Chief Examiner Capt. Harry Nail were on hand to present certificates to the examiners as they headed to Driver License offices statewide.

The new graduates expressed appreciation and gratitude to their instructors for helping train them in the complexities of driver license examining and prepare them for the challenges and rewards of public service.

Congratulations to all!

Sheffield Driver License Office to Serve Foreign National Applicants

New scanning equipment recently was installed at the Sheffield Driver License office to facilitate processing of foreign national applications. Sheffield is the most recent addition to a growing list of offices statewide to accept foreign national applicants. Other offices across the state include Decatur, Huntsville, Montgomery, Dothan, Mobile, Opelika, Birmingham, Jacksonville and Tuscaloosa.

"This new service will enable the Driver License Division to better serve all customers in the Decatur District," said Col. J. Christopher Murphy, Public Safety director. Murphy said continuing improvements in driver license offices statewide would be forthcoming in conjunction with his and Gov. Bob Riley's pledge earlier this year to address problems in the driver licensing system.

The Sheffield Driver License Office operates from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and does not close for lunch.



People You Know!

New Employees

Mark Barron	8/01/07	PCO I	HP/Huntsville
Melanie Blankenship	8/01/07	DL Examiner I	DL/Birmingham
Krystinia Chapman	8/01/07	DL Examiner I	DL/Birmingham
Kevin Genous	8/01/07	DL Examiner I	DL/Montgomery
Lakesha Kemp	7/16/07	Clerk	DL/Safety Responsibility
Miranda Irwin	7/16/07	DL Examiner I	DL/Montgomery
Gwendolyn Ivy	8/01/07	DL Examiner I	DL/Birmingham
Dorothy Poore	8/01/07	DL Examiner I	DL/Montgomery
Ashley Taylor	8/01/07	PCO I	HP/Jacksonville
Chastity Taylor	8/01/07	PCO I	HP/Jacksonville
Tisha Tyrus	7/16/07	Accounting Technician	HP/Montgomery

Promotions

Jack Clark	8/01/07	Lieutenant	HP/Montgomery
Susan Cobb	7/16/07	DL Supervisor	DL/Dothan Examining
Ashley Cook	7/16/07	ASA II	HP/Birmingham
Julius Darby	8/01/07	Sergeant	ABI/Conecuh County
Robert Dettmar	8/01/07	Sergeant	PS/Dignitary Protection
Ralph Drinkard	8/01/07	Sergeant	PS/Montgomery
Joe Duncan	8/01/07	Lieutenant	HP/Montgomery
Lawrence Goff	8/01/07	Sergeant	DL/Mobile
Marty Griffin	8/01/07	Captain	ABI/Assistant Division Chief
Robert Heeschen	8/01/07	Corporal	ABI/Madison County
Kristin Huffman	7/16/07	ASA II	HP/Birmingham
Keith Kelly	8/01/07	Captain	HP/Birmingham
Deborah Legg	8/01/07	ASA II	HP/Montgomery
Eugene Mattox	8/01/07	Corporal	ABI/Montgomery
Brent McElvaine	8/01/07	Sergeant	HP/Montgomery
Jessie Peoples	8/01/07	Sergeant	HP/Montgomery
Bobby Powell	8/01/07	Captain	HP/Motor Carrier Safety
Joseph Ptomey	8/01/07	Lieutenant	DL/Dothan
Damon Summers	8/01/07	Lieutenant	HP/Tuscaloosa
Lynn Sutton	8/01/07	Sergeant	ADM/Inspections
Brent Thomas	8/01/07	Corporal	ABI/Calhoun County
Wandrell Williams	8/01/07	Accounting Technician	ADM/Financial Services

Military Leave

Glenn Furukawa	7/19/07	Trooper	HP/Dothan
James Nelms	8/01/07	Trooper	HP/Opelika
Clyde Warren	7/24/07	Corporal	HP/Hamilton

People You Know!



Transfers

Thomas Averette	8/01/07	Trooper	HP/Headquarters
JoAnn Ball	7/16/07	DL Specialist	DL/Safety Responsibility
Thomas Bates	7/16/07	Sergeant	DL/Quad Cities
Michael Edwards	7/16/07	Trooper	HP/Decatur
Teddy Fain	7/16/07	Sergeant	DL/Dothan
James Fells	8/01/07	Sergeant	HP/Montgomery
Janet Godwin	7/16/07	DL Specialist	DL/Safety Responsibility
Gerone Grant	8/01/07	Captain	SER/Assistant Division Chief
Dana Gray	7/16/07	DL Specialist	DL/Safety Responsibility
Allen Jones	8/01/07	Lieutenant	HP/Motor Carrier Safety
James Lyons	7/16/07	Captain	HP/Mobile
Lee Phillips	8/01/07	Trooper	HP/Dothan
David Richards	8/01/07	Trooper	ADM/Public Information
Bonnie Steele	7/16/07	DL Specialist	DL/Safety Responsibility
Hugh Stinson	7/16/07	Sergeant	DL/Evergreen
William Wiggins	7/16/07	Lieutenant	ABI/Selma
Diane Woodruff	8/01/07	DL Supervisor	DL/CDL Medical

Resignations

Johnny Bailey	7/31/07	Trooper	HP/Decatur
Sandra Blackmon	8/06/07	PCO I	HP/Mobile
Sonja Bennett	7/31/07	PCO I	HP/Birmingham
Kenneth Bird	7/31/07	IT Systems Specialist	DL/Information Services
Nicole Bogan	7/31/07	ASA I	ADM/Financial Services
James Franklin	6/08/07	Retired State Employee	HP/Headquarters
Ronald Hayden	5/25/07	Corporal	ABI/Mobile
Sherry Hester	8/15/07	ASA III	HP/Traffic Homicide
James Hutchinson	7/20/07	Trooper	HP/Decatur
Betty Linder	8/07/07	PCO II	HP/Mobile
Chenita Matthews	7/20/07	Data Entry Operator	DL/Information Services
Sandra Reeves	7/19/07	DL Examiner I	DL/Mobile
Shanavia Sellers	8/15/07	ASA I	DL/Medical
Katelyn Shavers	8/09/07	Clerical Aide	ADM/Assistant Director's Office
Erin Stinson	7/13/07	Clerical Aide	ABI/Identification Unit

Retirements

Linda Brown	7/31/07	DL Supervisor	DL/Medical
McArthur Crittenden	7/31/07	Captain	HP/Dothan
Mark Williamson	7/31/07	Sergeant	HP/Motor Carrier Safety

Alabama Department of



Public Safety

CONTRIBUTING:

Capt. Harry Nail, DL

Lt. Clay Barnes, ABI

Sgt. Karl Youngblood, ABI

Tpr. John Reese, ADM

Tommy Giles, Photography

EDITOR:

Ryan Godfrey

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

DPS.ALABAMA.GOV

Questions? Comments? Concerns?

STAY IN TOUCH WITH *THE BLUE LIGHT*.

PLEASE EMAIL ALL REQUESTS TO:

RYAN.GODFREY@DPS.ALABAMA.GOV

On Your Calendar

Monday, September 3

Labor Day

Monday, October 8

Columbus Day

Monday, November 12

Veteran's Day

Thursday, November 22

Thanksgiving

RSA Criminal Justice Center Montgomery, Ala.



July 16, 2007

Dear Editor:

This letter is to thank Tpr. Hamby of the Opelika State Troopers for his actions above and beyond the call of duty. Last Thursday July 12th, we were returning to Auburn from Montgomery when we experienced a major blowout on the passenger front tire. We were able to control the car and get it off the side of the road. However, traveling at 65 mph, this was not an easy thing to do. We barely had room to get the car stopped on the side of the road. With cars and trucks whizzing by and not slowing down this was a dangerous situation until Tpr. Hamby pulled up behind us with his blue light flashing. We were trying to get the spare tire out of the trunk when Tpr. Hamby said he was going to change the tire for us. Both of us are in our seventies and just recently having open heart surgery we didn't know if we could change the tire or not.

The temperature was 94 degrees but that did not slow Tpr. Hamby down. He changed the tire and put the small spare on the car when he discovered the spare was flat. We had a small foot pump in the trunk and Tpr. Hamby managed to get enough air in the tire to get us back on the road toward Auburn. Tpr. Hamby then followed us to the nearest truck stop, and after we found out they too did not have air, Tpr. Hamby said he could not leave us stranded and followed us all the way into Auburn.

We will never forget what Tpr. Hamby did for us. If there is a Trooper of the month award, Tpr. Hamby should get it.

Grady and Margie Campbell
Auburn